**REGIONAL LEARNING AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL MEETING HELD**

**Wednesday 23rd April 2025**

**The Beacon, Llanelli**

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| **Name** |  | **Representing** |
| Kevin Foley | KF | Digital Chair |
| Angela Maguire-Lewis | AML | NTFW |
| Angela West | AW | MEDR |
| Barry Walters | BW | Chair of Provider Group |
| Eleri Lewis | EL | Welsh Government |
| Elwen Evans | EE | Higher Education |
| Jane Lewis | JL | RLSP Manager |
| Dean Ward | DW | RLSP Chair |
| Mark Hurry | MH | DWP |
| Mandy Ifans | MI | Careers Wales |
| Rob Basini | RB | FSB |
| Linsey Imms | LI | TUC |
| Jonathan Morris | JM | Chair of Construction |

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| Item |  | Actions |
| 1 | **Presentation on World Skills**  Emma Banfield from Coleg Sir Gar gave a presentation to the board on the World Skills:    DW thanked Emma for her valuable time and insightful presentation to the board. He emphasised the importance of the topics discussed and encouraged all board members to engage further by reaching out to Emma for more information.  DW suggested that Emma be invited to attend industry cluster groups in the future. |  |
| 2. | **To receive a presentation on the work of Careers Wales**  Mandy Ifans from Careers Wales presented to the board on the work of Careers Wales: |  |
| 2 | **RSP Chair Activity update**  DW provided the board with a comprehensive update on recent activities. DW reported that he had attended several events on behalf of the RLSP, engaging with new companies to encourage their participation in cluster groups. DW emphasised the significant impact these clusters have on the work of the RLSP.  DW informed the board that he attended all the cluster group meetings in March to observe their operations. He emphasised the need for changes within the clusters to achieve meaningful and tangible outcomes. |  |
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| 3. | **Skills and Talent Programme:**  JL informed the board that the papers distributed to board members included Project Evaluation Forms for completed projects.  LI suggested adding a question to the evaluation form: "What was the reason for not meeting or exceeding targets?"  **The board agreed for the question to be added.**  JL then provided an update on the project with the following report:    JL informed the board that concerns that had been raised in the last meeting regarding two projects have now been resolved.  The Batri project has been withdrawn, and the funding has been returned to the general fund.  For the 5G Technology project, the team has agreed to submit a claim, and the project's timeline has been extended to January 2027.  The Board  **AGREED:  that the 5G project could be extended to January 2027**. | Action – question to be added to Project Evaluation Forms |
|  | **Welsh Government Update**  EL provided an update on the Welsh Government Employability Engagement Events. The Welsh Government is undertaking an ambitious initiative to reform employability support across Wales. As part of this effort, they are hosting four regional engagement events to help shape a new, integrated Employability Support Programme that benefits everyone in Wales. The event for our region is scheduled for June 4th.  EL also informed the board of the Publication of Toolkit for Employers.  In the [Better Learning, Better Chances: Prison learning and skills provision in Wales](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-10/better-learning-better-chances-v0.pdf), the Welsh Government committed to working with our partners and employers with the shared objective of maximising the recruitment of prison leavers and highlighting the social benefits of doing so.  The document, [How hiring ex-offenders can help tackle your recruitment & training challenges](https://businesswales.gov.wales/system/files/2025-04/FINAL%20109293%20Ex-Offenders%20A4%20Brochure%20BIL%20v9_2.pdf) has been published |  |
|  | **Manager’s update on activity**  JL updated the board on a pivotal event to be held on the 22nd May 2025 in Parc y Scarlets Llanelli. The event will focus on the ambitious journey towards Net Zero and the challenges and opportunities of bringing existing homes up to new standards and building the new high-quality homes of the future. The presence of Jack Sargeant MS, Minister for Culture, Skills, and Social Partnership, delivering the keynote address highlights the significance of this event in shaping the future of sustainable development.  JL also informed the RLSP and Olchfa School had teamed up to host an engaging mini careers fair at the school. The event welcomed 300 enthusiastic Year 10 pupils, who had the opportunity to explore a wide range of exciting career opportunities. The feedback from the businesses involved was overwhelmingly positive. Both the school and the pupils had a brilliant day and discovered so much about the different career opportunities available to them. |  |